



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Wisconsin*

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**NEWS SUMMARY:**

Steven M. Biskupic, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, announced that on April 22, 2005, James Carey was sentenced in federal court to one year and one day in federal prison by United States District Court Judge Lynn Adelman. Mr. Carey was sentenced after pleading guilty to wire fraud. Mr. Carey also has to serve three years of supervised release following his incarceration, and was ordered to pay a total of \$159,078.20 in restitution to the Social Security Administration (SSA).

From 1999 through 2003, Mr. Carey reported to the SSA that he was unable to work because he had a compressed spinal cord and deteriorating disc disease. At that time, Mr. Carey started collecting Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits. During the investigation, it was determined that Mr. Carey owned and operated a lawn care and snow removal businesses from approximately 1996 through March 2003. Mr. Carey's work consisted of hiring and supervising employees, dealing with customers and clients, billing, bookkeeping, and some manual labor. Mr. Carey was able to conceal his self-employment from the SSA because he listed his wife and mother as either the registered agent or owner of the businesses. Yet, various records and documents recovered during the investigation reflected that Carey's gross income from Lawn King exceeded \$133,000 in 1999, \$135,000 in 2000, \$192,000 in 2001 and \$252,000 in 2002.

The case was investigated by the Social Security Administration and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Erica O'Neil and Gordon Giampietro.

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